

Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently Amended). A guide element with a base body having at least two guide surfaces disposed on different non-parallel planes (~~A, B₁, B₂~~), characterized by

the guide surfaces (~~5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a~~) having a pre-fabricated strip (~~10a, 10b, 10e, 11~~) applied to them, consisting of carrier material (~~12~~) with a sliding material (~~13, 13a, 13b~~) placed thereon.

2(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1, characterized by the strip (~~10a, 10b, 10e, 11~~) having been applied to the base body (~~2, 2'~~) by means of laser welding.

3(Currently Amended). A guide element with a T-shaped base body according to Claim 1 ~~or 2 above, respectively~~, characterized by at least the interior guide surfaces (~~5a, 5b, 6a, 6b~~), which are disposed at right angles to each other, having strips (~~10a, 10b~~).

4(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 3 above, respectively~~, characterized by each of the guide surfaces (~~5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a~~) having its own strip (~~10a, 10b, 10e~~).

5(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 3 above, respectively~~, characterized by each two contiguous guide surfaces (~~5a, 5b, or 6a, 6b~~), which are disposed on different planes, having one common strip (~~11~~).

6(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 5 above, respectively~~, characterized by the base body (~~2, 2'~~) consisting of structural steel (~~ST-37~~), and the carrier material (~~12~~) also consisting of steel or stainless steel.

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7(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 6 above, respectively~~, characterized by the sliding material (~~13, 13a, 13b~~) consisting of a sintering material.

8(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 7 above, respectively~~, characterized by the sliding material (~~13, 13a, 13b~~) consisting of a copper-tin alloy.

9(Original). A guide element according to Claim 8 above, characterized by the copper-tin alloy containing PTFE and/or graphite.

10(Original). A guide element according to Claim 9 above, characterized by the PTFE portion amounting to 8% to 10% of weight.

11(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 9 ~~or 10 above~~, characterized by the graphite portion amounting to 6% to 12% of weight.

12(Currently Amended). A guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 10 above, respectively~~, characterized by the sliding material (~~13~~) having a feed-coating (~~16~~) running-in layer.

13(Currently Amended). Use of a guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 through 12 above, respectively~~, for molds used in the manufacturing of rubber tires.

14(Currently Amended). Use of a guide element according to Claim 1 ~~Claim 12 above~~ for molds used in the manufacturing of automotive tires, truck tires, or industrial tires.

15(Currently Amended). A method for the production of a guide element with a base body having at least two guide surfaces disposed on various non-parallel planes, characterized by

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the fact that [[the]] at least one strip consisting of a carrier material with a sliding material placed thereon is pre-fabricated, and

the fact that the strip(s) is(are) applied to a guide surface by means of laser welding.

16(Original). A method according to Claim 15, characterized by the fact that the strip is laser welded along at least one longitudinal edge as well as both end edges.

17(Currently Amended). A method according to Claim 15 ~~Claims 15 or 16~~, characterized by the fact that the strip is fabricated with at least two sliding material areas, which are divided by an uncoated area on the carrier material, and

the fact that the strip is bent in the uncoated area to correspond to the planes of contiguous guide surfaces to be covered by the strip.